

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring Mary Gormley, a woman who puts not only the good of the community, but our children's education and well-being ahead of herself.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY'S
CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution congratulating Northwestern University's championship football team, the Wildcats, for its 1995 Big Ten Conference Championship and for its invitation to the 1996 Rose Bowl.

For the second time in its 122-year history, Northwestern is going to a bowl game. The 1995 winning season represents an unprecedented turnaround for Northwestern football.

Northwestern University has won the Big Ten Conference Championship with a perfect record in conference play. It recently received its invitation to the Rose Bowl. We will all be watching New Year's Day as the Wildcats play our friends at USC. We will all be cheering with Coach Gary Barnett, just as we cheered 4 years ago, when he first came to Northwestern and promised to take "the Purple to Pasadena."

We celebrate with University's President Henry Bienen, Coach Barnett and his dedicated and hard working team of coaches and athletes. We commend Northwestern University for its Big Ten Championship and for its invitation to the Rose Bowl. Northwestern's academic excellence has never been doubted; now let no one doubt its athletic excellence. Everyone wondered how this miracle occurred, but for Northwestern fans, it wasn't a question of how, but a question of when.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to join us in celebrating Northwestern football.

TRIBUTE TO CARMEN LOMAS
GARZA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very unique artist from Kingsville, TX, whose works illuminate the life and times of south Texans. Carmen Lomas Garza's impressionistic paintings illustrate the various aspects of life in our native community through the eyes of her childhood and can now be seen at the Smithsonian Museum.

Her exhibit, now showing at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, is entitled: "Directions: Carmen Lomas Garza." Her work inspired a popular children's book. Children's Book Press of San Francisco saw the wisdom of illustrating her paintings with short descriptions of what the paintings show.

Cuadros de familia—Family Pictures—is Children's Book Press' best seller, selling over 195,000 copies. It includes 32 reflections of the Mexican-American life in south Texas. It is an ideal gift for a youngster at Christmas.

As a child, the artist was teased and punished for speaking Spanish in school. But as she grew older and wiser, she used her art as a bridge to get past her anger, and to reflect her pride in our culture.

Her work is a touching glossary of childhood memories in Kingsville, TX. The scenes she depicts include: her grandfather peacefully watering his corn; the local faith healer expelling the flu from a neighbor; and a community cakewalk to raise money to send young people to college.

She told me about the peace she found growing up in south Texas with her family, and her desire to pass that along to the next generation through her art. She remembers the times we all remember with our family, eating on the front porch, making tamales, picking oranges, swimming in the Gulf of Mexico, and celebrating birthdays.

One of the most memorable paintings—and one just purchased by the Smithsonian for its permanent collection—is a tribute to her mother who supported her dreams of becoming an artist. The painting portrays the artist and her sister laying on the roof dreaming under the stars as their mother prepares their beds. Lomas Garza describes her mother as laying out the bed for our dreams of the future.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I highly recommend this exhibit to you and your constituents.

SALUTE TO HOMETOWN HEROES

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gerri Schmidt and Robin Dorman of Branford, CT for their truly heroic effort to save the lives of three small children from a fire last Wednesday. These women displayed inspiring selflessness in aiding their neighbors and dousing the flames that engulfed a local condominium.

According to the authorities with the Branford Fire Department, three children aged 5, 3, and 14 months are alive and well today because of these two fine women. Careless playing with matches by one of the children is said to have caused the blaze.

Yesterday, as Gerri Schmidt walked her dog and Robin Dorman backed her car out of the drive, an elderly woman raced from a condominium on Watch Hill Road, screaming, "Fire! Fire!" Schmidt and Dorman ran to the woman who told them of the children trapped by the fire inside the building.

Not thinking of themselves, these women raced inside. There Schmidt found the five-year-old and the three-year-old in a bedroom and the 14-month-old in a hallway and carried them outside to safety. Dorman, meanwhile, ran up the stairs through heavy smoke and beat back the flames with a blanket. By the time the firefighters arrived on the scene, the children were safe and the flames were nearly extinguished.

Real life heroes are all too rare in this day and age. Gerri Schmidt and Robin Dorman have earned our praise, our thanks, our admiration and our acknowledgement, and I want to recognize them for their bravery.

Webster's Dictionary defines heroism as "fulfilling high purpose or attaining a noble

end." On behalf of the House of Representatives, I would like to extend my praise of Gerri Schmidt and Robin Dorman who truly define heroism. Thanks to our hometown heroes.

THE BEST SMALL TOWN IN
AMERICA

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Essex, CT, on being named the Best Small Town in America by author Norman Crampton. Mr. Crampton's book, "The 100 Best Small Towns in America," recognizes Essex for qualities its residents, and people across Connecticut, have appreciated for many years. The residents, officials, and business people of the community should be very proud of this honor, which acknowledges their commitment to their community.

Mr. Crampton ranked towns across the Nation using several criteria, including per capita income, crime rate, public school expenditure per pupil, and percentage of population with a bachelor's degree. While every survey seeking to rate communities relies on similar factors, the author also considered community efforts to provide housing to all income groups and to encourage residents to play an active role in town affairs.

In the final analysis, Essex rose above every other small town in America to be named No. 1. Since settlers first came to the area in the mid-1600's, Essex, which encompasses the villages of Centerbrook, Ivoryton, and Essex, has distinguished itself. For much of the 18th and early-19th centuries, Essex was known as a world-class shipbuilding center. In fact, the first ship commissioned by the U.S. Navy in 1775, the *Oliver Cromwell*, was built in Essex and provided to our fledgling Government by the State of Connecticut. In addition to building the ships which were the lifeline of commerce in the 1700's and 1800's, Essex was an important commercial port for trade throughout the world, especially between the eastern United States and the islands of the Caribbean. The village of Ivoryton was so named because Essex was home to one of the leading manufacturers of piano keys. Manufacturers in Essex also helped to pioneer commercial production of which hazel and the community remains home to one of the world's largest distillers of this product.

Mr. Speaker, it is obvious to this Member why Essex has been ranked No. 1. The community has something to offer to everyone. Families can take advantage of first-rate public schools, affordable housing, and local employment opportunities. Lying on the banks of the lower Connecticut River, Essex boasts tidal flats and marshes, coves and inlets which provide valuable habitat for many species of fish, wildlife and birds. Visitors can enjoy leisurely rides on the Connecticut Valley Railroad, affectionately known by locals as the Essex Steamtrain, and conclude their day with a great meal at the historic Griswold Inn, which has been serving visitors for more than 200 years.

During the course of writing his book, Mr. Crampton interviewed citizens in communities around the Nation. His conversations with